

## Wildlife & Plants

There are many types of plants and animals found in the Boundary Peak Wilderness. Animals seen or heard include wild horses, deer, grouse, and rabbits. In summer months cows may be grazing in meadows in the canyon areas.

A wide variety of vegetation types also occupy the area. Foxtail and Limber pines are found in higher elevations with sagebrush and willows filling in the lower elevations. Wildflowers of several species flourish in spring and early summer, even seen up to the highest elevations.



Indian Paintbrush



Foxtail Pines



Cattle in summer

## Advisories

- **Bear habitat** is included in Boundary Peak Wilderness. Keep food, trash, and "smellables" secured to prevent wildlife from gaining access to these items, preferably using a bear resistant canister.
- **Cattle** may be grazing in the canyon area in summer. Grazing area extends throughout the canyon and cows may be seen near the Trail Canyon trailhead and camping areas. If you encounter cattle, move slowly and using a normal tone of voice shoo them away, do not harass them in any way.
- **Weather conditions** can change quickly in the Boundary Peak Wilderness. Be prepared for hot and dry conditions in summer months with plenty of water and sun protection. Monitor cloud conditions for development of thunderstorms. If storm clouds and/or lightning are observed move to a lower elevation with tree cover. Avoid being at high or exposed areas during inclement weather.
- **Wilderness permits** are not required for the Boundary Peak Wilderness, though you may want to contact the White Mountain Visitor Center to get information on current conditions and restrictions.

## Caring for the Wilderness: Leave No Trace

### Hiking

- Hike single file on established trails and avoid walking on faint trails so that vegetation can be reestablished.
- Where no trail is evident hike on durable surfaces such as rocks, gravel, and sand.
- Avoid walking on vegetation in meadows and step around brush in sagebrush areas.

### Camping

- Camp at least 100 feet from water on already impacted areas.
- Don't camp on vegetation in meadows and try to walk varying routes in your campsite to avoid creating connecting trails between tents, cooking areas, etc.
- Leave your campsite clean; dismantle rock tables, fire rings, etc. and remove all trash and food scraps.
- Any old mining structures or artifacts should be left in place and not touched.

### Water

- There is no potable water at Trail Canyon or Queen Canyon. There is a small creek near the Trail Canyon trailhead but this water will need to be filtered. It is best to bring your own water.
- Camp at least 100 feet away from water sources.
- Get water during daylight hours to avoid disturbing evening wildlife activity (desert animals are more active at night).
- To reduce contamination and erosion use a container to collect water from the source and bring back to your campsite; do not wash dishes, clothes, or yourself in the water source.
- Use only as much water as you need or bring your water with you; water is rare and important in the desert ecosystem.

### Fire

- Campfires are allowed in established fire rings, but avoid fires above 9,500 feet elevations.
- Burn wood and coals to white ash, put out campfires completely, and scatter cool ashes.
- Check with the local Forest Service office to determine if any fire restrictions are in effect.

### Trash & Waste

- Pack out all trash, food waste, toilet paper, feminine products, etc. Do not burn or bury any type of refuse.
- Disperse water used for washing by straining out food particles and scattering at least 100 feet away from water sources.
- Use a cathole dug 4-6 inches deep for disposal of human waste. Space out catholes over a wide area, at least 100 feet away water sources, in a sunny area which helps to kill pathogens found in waste.
- Cover used catholes with dirt and disguise with surrounding materials.

Adapted from NOLS: Leave No Trace Outdoor Skills & Ethics: Desert & Canyon Country

## Boundary Peak Wilderness Inyo National Forest



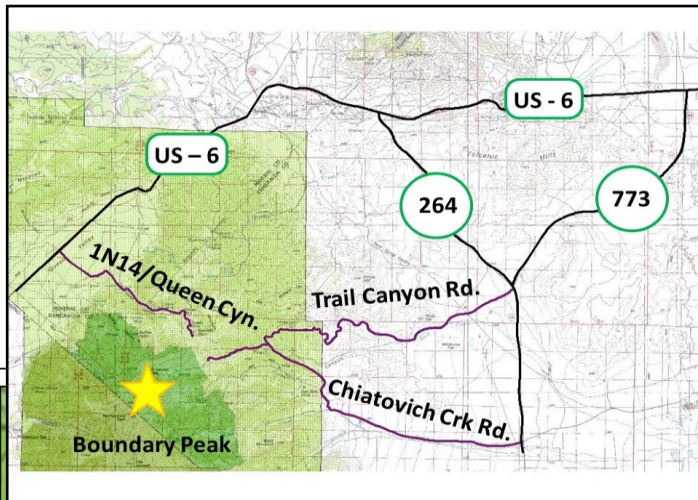
Blazing Star flower

Inyo National Forest  
White Mountain Ranger Station &  
Visitor Center  
(760) 873-2500  
798 N. Main St.  
Bishop, CA 93514

This booklet was produced for the  
Inyo National Forest by SCA  
wilderness interns  
Rosie Duncan & Angela Hill-Crim







### Driving Directions - Trail Canyon Route

- From U.S. Hwy 6 turn south on NV-264 or NV-773.
- Turn west on Trail Canyon Rd. or Chiatovich Rd. The two roads merge then pass a reservoir followed by flat areas that may be used for camping. The road ends at the trailhead parking area.
- **Note** that both roads are unpaved dirt and gravel. A high clearance, two-wheel drive vehicle with a full-sized spare tire is strongly recommended. Trail Canyon road is very narrow, steep in some parts, and crosses washes which may become flooded.

### Driving Directions – Queen Canyon Route

- From U.S. Highway 6 heading east turn south on 1N14, a dirt road 2.5 miles from the CA-NV border across the highway from a set of abandoned buildings. The road is unpaved and rough, with uneven terrain and steep turns in some areas. High clearance 4-wheel drive vehicles are recommended.
- Continue southeast on the dirt road, stay on 1N14.
- At mile seven on 1N14 will be a saddle with flat areas for parking and camping. There are also several flat areas near old mining sites before the ridge. If camping near mining sites do not disturb buildings or artifacts.

### Background

Boundary Peak Wilderness is a 10,000 acre desert wilderness area in Nevada. It lies in the northernmost region of the White Mountains within the Inyo National Forest and was designated by Congress in 1989.

The granite summit of Boundary Peak is a well-known hiking destination for high point hikers as the highest point in Nevada at 13,140 feet. Boundary Peak lies just ¼ mile inside the Nevada border. Nearby Montgomery Peak, though taller at 13,447 feet, is connected to Boundary Peak but is within the border of California.

### Trail Information

- Hiking to the summit of Boundary Peak can be done as a day hike from either the Trail Canyon or Queen Canyon routes. The hike is moderate to difficult at about 8 miles round trip for both routes. Good physical fitness is highly recommended. Only the first 2 miles of the Trail Canyon route are on Forest System trails. All other trails are unofficial user created trails, some more visible than others.
- The Trail Canyon route begins as a gradual climb and hugs the southern side of the canyon. The first 2 miles are easily visible. After 2 miles long pants are recommended as travel is through sagebrush to get to the base of the steep climb to the saddle. The route to Trail Canyon saddle can be difficult to distinguish in some areas. The preferred route is on the map at left.
- The Queen Canyon route begins at the saddle at the end of the dirt road. It is a moderate to steep climb for the first mile which then levels off at 10,600 ft. elevation. The trail to the peak becomes visible at the Trail Canyon saddle.
- The ascent to the peak is steep and becomes rockier as elevation is gained. The trail to the peak is difficult to distinguish in many portions of this route. Exercise care and caution when summiting Boundary Peak.
- Hikers on the Trail Canyon route choosing to descend via the scree slope on the east facing side of the mountain should stay on the most established user trail. It is the most visible trail and this route will help to avoid causing damage to sensitive plants.

